



BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS

Government of the Virgin Islands

"Security, Custody, Control"

Rural Route 1, Box 9909, Kingshill, VI 00850-9715

8201 Subbase, 1st Floor St. Thomas, USVI 00802-5813

Plot #1 Negro Bay – Williams D. Roebuck Park, Frederiksted, St Croix VI 00840

Phone: STX (340) 778-0400 – STT (340)-714-8300 - Fax: (340) 778-2929 – <https://boc.vi.gov>



BOC Response to V.I. Daily News Inquiry on Psychiatric Care at the St. Thomas Jail October 5, 2020

In response to an inquiry from the Daily News concerning psychiatric care at the St. Thomas Jail the Bureau of Corrections makes the following statement:

St. Croix/St. Thomas – After 23 years of faithful service, Dr. Leighman Lu officially retired from the Bureau of Corrections (“Bureau” or “BOC”) on August 31, 2020. After his retirement, Dr. Lu agreed to provide service to prisoners at the St. Thomas Jail on a contractual basis until a replacement psychiatrist could be found. The Bureau has finalized negotiations with a local provider of psychiatric services to replace Dr. Lu as soon as the contracting process is completed. There has been no interruption in the psychiatric service available to inmates and detainees at the St. Thomas Jail.

The Bureau thanks Dr. Lu for his years of dedication and service to the people of the Virgin Islands. Dr. Lu’s retirement NOPA is being processed by the Division of Personnel and is not currently available.

BOC does not owe any debt to Correct Care of South Carolina. The debt referred to by the Daily News is owed by the Department of Health (“DOH”), not BOC. Correct Care confirmed last week that BOC’s account has a zero balance.

Absent a court order or a psychiatric emergency, BOC has no authority to place detainees in a forensic psychiatric facility. Once the court enters an order of commitment, DOH becomes primarily responsible for finding a facility capable of providing the level of care the detainee requires. BOC is responsible for transporting the detainee to the facility selected by DOH.

There are no forensic mental health facilities in the Virgin Islands. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the number of beds available at forensic psychiatric facilities on the mainland. Several facilities have suspended new patient intakes until the pandemic has abated. Currently, the Bureau has 2 detainees in its custody who have been ordered committed and who are awaiting placement in a forensic psychiatric facility on the mainland.

Contact: Winthrop Maduro, BOC Public Information Officer
winthrop.maduro@boc.vi.gov
(340) 201-1034